



## Washington's center of gravity on immigration has shifted to the right

By SEUNG MIN KIM and COLLEEN LONG

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — It was a decade ago that Capitol Hill was consumed by an urgency to overhaul the nation's immigration system, fueled in no small part by Republicans who felt a political imperative to make inroads with minority voters by embracing more generous policies. But nothing ever became law and in the time since, Washington's center of gravity on immigration has shifted demonstrably to the right, with the debate now focused on measures meant to keep migrants out as Republicans sense they have the political upper hand. Long gone are the chatter and horse-trading between parties over how to secure a pathway to citizenship for immigrants, or a modernized work permit system to encourage more legal migration.



Migrants form lines outside the border fence waiting for transportation to a U.S. Border Patrol facility in El Paso, Texas, May 10, 2023. .

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# Washington's center of gravity on immigration has shifted to the right

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Instead, the fights of late have centered on how much to tighten asylum laws and restrain a president's traditional powers to protect certain groups of migrants. Now, Democrats and Republicans are again struggling to strike an immigration deal — and the consequences of failure stretch far beyond the southern border. Congressional Republicans are insisting on tougher border measures as their price for greenlighting billions in additional aid to Ukraine, and the stalemate is putting the future of U.S. military assistance to Kyiv at risk as Russia's invasion of Ukraine nears the two-year mark.

Democrats have "ceded the ground to Republicans on immigration and the border," said Aaron Reichlin-Melnick, policy director at the American Immigration Council, a nonprofit that advocates for immigrant rights. "The administration seems to see no advantage in leading on this issue, but I think that they're shooting themselves in the foot."

The intractable nature of immigration debates is coming into sharp relief this week as a bipartisan group of senators tasked with finding a border deal is running out of time to reach an agreement. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., has promised to put up for a vote a nearly \$106 billion emergency spending request from Biden to cover national security needs including Ukraine, Israel and the border. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., is an unwavering backer of Ukraine yet has stressed privately to President Joe Biden that the administration will need to bend on border policy to unlock that money.

In remarks at the White House on Wednesday, Biden made it clear that he was prepared to agree to at least some of the changes Republicans are seeking.

"I am willing to make significant compromises on the border," he said. "We need to fix the broken border system. It is broken."



President Joe Biden delivers remarks on funding for Ukraine from the Roosevelt Room of the White House, Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2023, in Washington.

Behind closed doors, Democrats have resisted demands from Republicans to scale back Biden's executive powers to temporarily admit certain migrants into the country. Yet Democrats privately appear willing to concede to GOP negotiators in other areas, particularly on making it tougher for asylum-seekers to clear an initial bar before their legal proceedings can continue in the United States. That's a shift in favor of Republicans from even last year: There were similar agreements around asylum among Senate negotiators back then, but that would have been in exchange for a conditional pathway to citizenship for roughly 2 million "Dreamers" who came to the United States illegally as children.

Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., a perennial negotiator on immigration, stressed that in "every Congress, the foundation for compromise changes." "The Democrats have to understand we lead one of the two chambers on Capitol Hill," Tillis said. "They have to understand that we rightfully will get something more conservative than some of the deals that are negotiated in the last Congress." Throughout the Senate border negotiations, the White House has remained visibly hands off, largely trying to replicate its strategy on previously successful legislative talks like those that eventually led to tougher gun restrictions becoming law.

But it's also no secret the border is one issue Biden would prefer to avoid.

Though Biden as vice president spearheaded the Obama administration's diplomatic efforts in Central America, the border specifically is one of the few issues that he did not manage during his 36 years in the Senate nor two terms as vice president.

As president, Biden's aim has been to adopt a foreign policy approach to the border, framing the issue as a hemispheric challenge, not solely a U.S. problem. Biden almost immediately after taking office unraveled some of former President Donald Trump's more hard-line policies. And last year, he oversaw the end of Title 42, the pandemic-era health restrictions at the border that had made it easier to deny migrants entry into the U.S. He has tried to broaden legal pathways while cracking down on illegal border crossings. But the number of migrants at the border, after an initial dip following the end of Title 42, has been climbing dramatically. Now, cities like Chicago, New York and Denver are struggling to manage the migrants who have been relocated to their cities, forcing Democrats in areas far north to confront similar challenges to those long faced by border states. Inside the White House, deputy chief of staff Natalie Quillian — tapped initially to oversee implementation of Biden's signature laws, like the massive infrastructure package that just turned two years old — is now coordinating the administration's response to Democratic-led

cities and states that have asked for help managing the influx of migrants.

"There is a fundamental shift in the Democratic Party on immigration" that has happened within the past six months, as the number of migrants in those cities has swelled, said Muzaffar Chishti, a senior fellow and director of the Migration Policy Institute office at New York University's law school.

Before, Democrats would bristle at any potential discussion over the border, particularly following Trump. But Chishti added: "That's no longer true. Their backs don't go up when they see someone saying we want to make some changes in the policies at the border."

Aides and allies to Biden have said the president is willing to accept new restrictions on asylum and potentially other Republican-led immigration policy changes, particularly as the numbers at the border continue to rise. His supplemental funding request, which seeks \$14 billion for the border, would hire more asylum officers, increase detention capacity for migrant families and hire more immigration court judges.

There's now a backlog of more than 1 million cases, and it's only increasing. Some migrants are released into the U.S. and wait for years before they are told whether they qualify for asylum. Arrests at the U.S.-Mexico border in August through October more than doubled over the previous three months as migrants

and smugglers adjusted to new asylum regulations following the end of Title 42. Illegal border crossings were at 188,778 in October, down from 218,763 in September, which was the second-highest month on record.

The White House decision to lump additional funding for the border in with Ukraine assistance has given lawmakers, Republicans say, an implicit nod to negotiate policy changes that would otherwise make Democrats feel uncomfortable.

"The fact that they are trying to actually work and figure out what we can do to come up with border security tells me he understands the American people are getting fed up with their current posture," Tillis said of Biden and the White House. Bolstering the GOP posture even further is a new House Republican majority that is largely resistant to continued Ukraine assistance, making the price of additional aid for the White House that much higher.

And unlike the successful gun talks last year — when Democrats wielded political advantage after mass shootings galvanized public calls for increased restrictions — immigration is largely seen as an issue that is being fought on Republicans' turf.

But in the Democrats' view, Trump and his hard-line immigration policies, coupled with antipathy toward Ukraine aid, continue to loom large, rendering Republicans unable to close any deal that would involve irking portion of their base that remain staunchly opposed to Ukraine aid and anything less than the hard-line policies they've already laid out.

Sen. Michael Bennet, D-Colo., one of the chief authors of the 2013 immigration bill that never became law, said the U.S. immigration system, writ large, still needs an overhaul.

But "we can't do that right now in the context of this Ukraine bill," he said. "It's too complicated. It's too far reaching. And frankly, there's no reason to be attaching the border to Ukraine funding." □



# Kevin McCarthy was booted as House speaker two months ago. Now he's leaving Congress by year's end

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD and KEVIN FREKING

Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Two months after his historic ouster as U.S. House speaker, Republican Rep. Kevin McCarthy said Wednesday that he is resigning and will leave Congress by the end of the year.

His announcement capped a stunning end to a House career for the onetime deli counter owner from Bakersfield, California, who ascended through state and national politics to become second in line to the presidency, until a cluster of hard-right conservatives engineered his removal in October.

McCarthy is the only speaker in history to be voted out of the job.

"No matter the odds, or personal cost, we did the right thing," McCarthy wrote in *The Wall Street Journal*, announcing his decision. "It is in this spirit that I have decided to depart the House at the end of this year to serve America in new ways."

Word about McCarthy's future had been expected, days before the filing deadline to seek reelection to the House.

But his decision ricocheted across Capitol Hill, where his departure will leave the already paper-thin House



Rep. Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., speaks to reporters hours after he was ousted as Speaker of the House, Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2023, at the Capitol in Washington.

GOP majority even tighter, with just a few seats to spare.

It adds to the wave of retirements in the House, which has been split by Republican infighting, and the rare expulsion last week of indicted GOP Rep. George Santos of New York, dashing hopes for major accomplishments and leaving the majority straining to conduct the basic business of governing.

McCarthy had brought the Republicans into the majority but found it was much

more difficult to lead the GOP's factions.

His toppling from the speaker's post was fueled by grievances from his party's hard-right flank, including over his decision to work with Democrats to keep the federal government open rather than risk a shutdown.

House Speaker Mike Johnson of Louisiana, a Republican who succeeded McCarthy as speaker, tweeted that McCarthy "served faithfully and sacrificed substantially for the good

of our country and our cause."

Speaking later with reporters, Johnson called McCarthy a "long and trusted friend" and said he was "sad to see him go."

Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla., who led the effort to remove McCarthy, tweeted a one-word response after his announcement: "McLeavin."

McCarthy, 58, arrived in the House in January 2007 after a stint in the California Assembly, where he was minority leader. In Congress,

he maneuvered through his party's hierarchy before being elected speaker in January.

The dayslong floor fight that preceded his elevation to the House's top job foreshadowed a stormy tenure, at a time when former President Donald Trump remained the de facto leader of the party and deep divisions within the GOP raised serious questions about the party's ability to govern.

It took a record 15 votes over four days for McCarthy to line up the support he needed to win the post he had long coveted, finally prevailing on a 216-212 vote with Democrats backing leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York and six Republican holdouts voting present.

Not since the Civil War era has a speaker's vote dragged through so many rounds of counting.

McCarthy emerged from the fight weakened, especially considering Republicans held only a fragile margin in the chamber after a predicted "red wave" failed to materialize in the 2022 elections.

In the speaker's job, McCarthy's well-known savvy for fundraising and political glad-handing appeared ill-suited for corralling his party's hard-right members. □

## The Justice Department is investigating the deaths and kidnappings of Americans in the Hamas attack

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Justice Department is investigating the deaths and kidnappings of Americans during the Hamas attack against Israel on Oct. 7, Attorney General Merrick Garland said Wednesday. Garland's comments came as he announced a war-crimes case filed against four Russian soldiers accused of torturing an

American during the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The charges are the first filed under a nearly 30-year-old law that allows U.S. prosecutors to charge people over the inhumane treatment of Americans during war. "Hamas murdered more than 30 Americans and kidnapped more" during the attack, Garland said. "We are investigating those heinous crimes and we will hold those people

accountable."

Hamas and other militants killed about 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took captive some 240 men, women and children in the attack. Two months of Israeli bombardment and ground assaults have killed more than 16,200 people in Gaza most of them women and children and wounded more than 42,000, the territory's Health Ministry said late Tuesday. □



Attorney General Merrick Garland speaks with reporters during a news conference at the Department of Justice, Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2023, in Washington, as Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas, right, looks on.

Associated Press



# Facebook parent sued by New Mexico alleging it has failed to shield children from predators

**SANTA FE, N.M. (AP)**—Facebook and Instagram fail to protect underage users from exposure to child sexual abuse material and let adults solicit pornographic imagery from them, New Mexico's attorney general alleges in a lawsuit that follows an undercover online investigation.

"Our investigation into Meta's social media platforms demonstrates that they are not safe spaces for children but rather prime locations for predators to trade child pornography and solicit minors for sex," Attorney General Raul Torrez said in a statement Wednesday.

The civil suit filed late Tuesday against Meta Platforms Inc. in state court also names its CEO, Mark Zuckerberg, as a defendant.

In addition, the suit claims Meta "harms children and teenagers through the addictive design of its platform, degrading users' mental health, their sense of self-worth, and their physical safety," Torrez's office said in a statement.

Those claims echo a lawsuit filed in late October by the attorneys general of 33 states, including California and New York, against Meta that alleges Insta-



Meta's logo is seen on a sign, Nov. 9, 2022, at the company's headquarters in Menlo Park, Calif. Associated Press

gram and Facebook include features deliberately designed to hook children, contributing to the youth mental health crisis and leading to depression, anxiety and eating disorders. Investigators in New Mexico created decoy accounts of children 14 years and younger that Torrez's office said were served sexually explicit images even when the child expressed no interest in them. State pros-

ecutors claim that Meta let dozens of adults find, contact and encourage children to provide sexually explicit and pornographic images.

The accounts also received recommendations to join unmoderated Facebook groups devoted to facilitating commercial sex, investigators said, adding that Meta also let its users find, share, and sell "an enormous volume of child por-

nography."

"Mr. Zuckerberg and other Meta executives are aware of the serious harm their products can pose to young users, and yet they have failed to make sufficient changes to their platforms that would prevent the sexual exploitation of children," Torrez said, accusing Meta's executives of prioritizing "engagement and ad revenue over the safety of the most vulner-

able members of our society."

Meta, which is based in Menlo Park, California, did not directly respond to the New Mexico lawsuit's allegations, but said that it works hard to protect young users with a serious commitment of resources.

"We use sophisticated technology, hire child safety experts, report content to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and share information and tools with other companies and law enforcement, including state attorneys general, to help root out predators," the company said. "In one month alone, we disabled more than half a million accounts for violating our child safety policies."

Company spokesman Andy Stone pointed to a company report detailing the millions of tips Facebook and Instagram sent to the National Center in the third quarter of 2023 including 48,000 involving inappropriate interactions that could include an adult soliciting child sexual abuse material directly from a minor or attempting to meet with one in person. □

# A new Homeland Security guide aims to help houses of worship protect themselves

**By REBECCA SANTANA**  
**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — A new guide from the Department of Homeland Security released Wednesday aims to help churches, synagogues, mosques and other houses of worship protect themselves at a time of heightened tensions in faith-based communities across the country.

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, an arm of Homeland Security, works with faith groups across the country to help them prepare for and prevent targeted violence against their facilities and their members.

David Mussington, who's in charge of infrastructure security at CISA, says the goal of the 16-page document is to give useable information in a format that's easy to understand.

"It's designed to be clear, to be less jargon-filled and to provide guidance and assistance in getting assistance from us," Mussington said.

The guidance, dubbed "Physical Security Performance Goals for Faith-Based Communities," outlines how faith groups can better protect themselves: keeping landscaping like hedges trimmed to prevent hiding places for attackers,

for example, or only giving out necessary information during livestreams of services.

It also talks about having a plan in place for when something happens, such as having a predetermined spot where people can go and having a dedicated location for the faith community to memorialize people affected by what happened. There's also information about federal government grants that houses of worship can apply for to pay for security improvements as well as other resources the department has developed to help communities.

Mussington said the guidelines have been in the works for months in response to concerns his agency has

heard from various faiths about how to protect themselves. □



Hoboken Police officers stand watch outside the United Synagogue of Hoboken, Nov. 3, 2022, in Hoboken, N.J.

Associated Press



## The UK plans to ignore part of its human rights law to revive a Rwanda asylum plan

By JILL LAWLESS  
Associated Press

**LONDON (AP)** — The U.K. government triggered criticism from opponents and division inside the governing Conservatives on Wednesday with a bill that will let it ignore a part of the country's human rights law in order to send asylum-seekers on a one-way trip to Rwanda.

The legislation is part of government plans to overcome a block by the U.K. Supreme Court on its Rwanda policy. The court ruled last month that the plan was illegal because Rwanda isn't a safe country for refugees.

Britain and Rwanda have since signed a treaty pledging to strengthen protection for migrants. The U.K. government says that will allow it to pass a law declaring Rwanda a safe destination.

Home Secretary James Cleverly said the Safety of Rwanda Bill "will make absolutely clear in U.K. law that Rwanda is a safe country." He urged lawmakers in Parliament to pass the legislation, even though it may violate international



Home Secretary James Cleverly during a press conference with Rwandan Minister of Foreign Affairs Vincent Biruta after the signing of a new treaty in Kigali, Rwanda, Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2023.  
Associated Press

human rights rules.

The government says the law will allow it to "disapply" sections of U.K. human rights law when it comes to Rwanda-related asylum claims.

On the first page of the bill, Cleverly states that he can't guarantee that it's compatible with the European Convention on Human Rights but that law-

makers should approve it anyway.

The bill now faces a battle in Parliament. It doesn't go far enough for some lawmakers on the governing Conservative Party's authoritarian wing, who want the U.K. to go further and leave the European rights convention completely. That would put Britain among a very few Europe-

an nonmembers including Belarus and Russia, which was expelled after Moscow launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Immigration Minister Robert Jenrick, who has advocated for tough measures, quit on Wednesday after the bill was published.

The bill also will likely face resistance from centrist Conservative lawmakers

who oppose Britain breaching its human rights obligations.

And Rwandan Foreign Minister Vincent Biruta said that his country would scrap the deal unless Britain stuck to international law.

"It has always been important to both Rwanda and the U.K. that our rule of law partnership meets the highest standards of international law, and it places obligations on both the U.K. and Rwanda to act lawfully," he said in a statement.

The troubled Rwanda plan is central to the U.K. government's self-imposed goal of stopping unauthorized asylum-seekers arriving on small boats across the English Channel.

Britain and Rwanda struck a deal in April 2022 for some migrants who cross the Channel to be sent to Rwanda, where their asylum claims would be processed and, if successful, they would stay. The U.K. government argues that the deportations will discourage others from making the risky sea crossing and break the business model of people-smuggling gangs. □

## A new Dutch parliament has been sworn in after Wilders' victory

By MIKE CORDER  
Associated Press

**THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)** — A new lower house of the Dutch parliament was sworn in Wednesday, two weeks after the far-right party of lawmaker Geert Wilders won a general election in a seismic shift that reverberated through Europe.

While the newly configured Second Chamber is now installed, talks to form a new ruling coalition remain at an early stage, with a "scout" still talking to leaders about possible combinations to succeed the last four-party administration led by Prime Minister Mark Rutte.

The scout is expected to send a report to parliament

before a debate, likely next week, on the next step in the coalition formation process.

Rutte, the Netherlands' longest serving premier, will remain in office until a new coalition is formed



Geert Wilders, leader of the far-right party PVV, or Party for Freedom, waits for the start of a meeting with speaker of the House Vera Bergkamp, two days after Wilders won the most votes in a general election, in The Hague, Netherlands, Friday Nov. 24, 2023.

Associated Press

and sworn in. Talks to form Rutte's final coalition took some nine months, a record.

Wilders' anti-Islam, anti-immigration Party for Freedom won 37 seats in the 150-seat Second Chamber of Parliament in the Nov. 22 election, putting him in pole position to succeed Rutte. But at least two potential coalition partners are balking at some of his policy pledges that they consider unconstitutional. The New Social Contract of former Christian Democrat lawmaker Pieter Omtzigt has 20 seats in the new parliament, but is so far reluctant to commit to joining Wilders in a coalition.

Among Wilders' cam-

paign pledges is for "No Islamic schools, Qurans and mosques" in the country, though his manifesto doesn't outline how he would achieve that goal. The Dutch Constitution guarantees rights, including freedom of religion. Dilan Yeşilgöz-Zegerius, the new leader of the People's Party for Freedom and Democracy long led by Rutte, has said she doesn't want her party to join a coalition with Wilders, but has pledged to support a center-right coalition in parliament.

The new parliament is made up of 15 different parties and includes 67 lawmakers with no experience in the national legislature. □



# Guyana's president says country is preparing to defend itself from Venezuela over disputed area

By DÁNICA COTO

Associated Press

**SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)** — Guyana's President

Irfaan Ali told The Associated Press on Wednesday that his country is taking every necessary step to protect itself from Venezuela, which has ordered its state-owned companies to explore and exploit oil and minerals in Guyana's vast Essequibo region that it considers its own.

When asked if he has requested military assistance, Ali said his government is reaching out to allies and regional partners, some of which Guyana has defense agreements with, to protect the Essequibo region, which makes up two-thirds of the country.

"We take this threat very seriously, and we have initiated a number of precautionary measures to ensure the peace and stability of this region," Ali said in a brief phone interview.

He noted that Guyana's Defense Force also is speaking with counterparts in other countries but didn't say which ones.

"Should Venezuela proceed to act in this reckless



The Essequibo River flows through Kurupukari crossing in Guyana, Saturday, Nov. 19, 2023. Venezuela has long claimed Guyana's Essequibo region, a territory larger than Greece and rich in oil and minerals.

and adventurous manner, the region will have to respond," he said. "And that is what we're building. We're building a regional response." Ali spoke a day after Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro said he would immediately grant operating licenses for exploration and exploitation in Essequibo and ordered the creation of local subsidiaries of Venezuelan public companies, including oil gi-

ant PDVSA and mining conglomerate Corporación Venezolana de Guayana. Venezuela has the world's largest proven oil reserves, but years of mismanagement and economic sanctions imposed by the U.S. against Maduro's government have hurt PDVSA and subsidiaries. Maduro also announced the creation of a Comprehensive Defense Operational Zone for the territory in dispute. It would

be similar to special military commands that operate in certain regions of Venezuela. "The announcements by Venezuela are in full defiance of international law," Ali said. "And any country that so openly defies important international bodies should be of concern not only for Guyana but for all of the world." He said Venezuela's actions can severely disrupt the region's stability and peace-

Associated Press

ful coexistence.

Guyana expects to bring up the issue at Wednesday's U.N. Security Council meeting.

The president said in a statement late Tuesday that his administration has reached out to the U.S., neighboring Brazil, the United Kingdom, France, the U.N. secretary general and the U.S. Southern Command, which oversees military operations in Central and South America and the Caribbean.

Ali also accused Venezuela of defying a ruling that the International Court of Justice in the Netherlands issued last week. It ordered Venezuela not to take any action until the court rules on the countries' competing claims, a process expected to take years.

Venezuela's government condemned Ali's statement, accusing Guyana of acting irresponsibly and allegedly giving the U.S. Southern Command a green light to enter the Essequibo region.

Venezuela called on Guyana to resume dialogue and leave aside its "erratic, threatening and risky conduct." □

# Dengue fever is on the rise in Mali with more than 20 deaths, health director says

By BABA AHMED

Associated Press

**BAMAKO, Mali (AP)** — Authorities say dengue fever is

on the rise in Mali, posing a new threat to the West African nation struggling with extremist attacks and politi-

cal turbulence.

The director general of health and public hygiene, Dr. Cheick Amadou Tidi-ane Traore, told The Associated Press in an interview Wednesday that his department had counted 21 deaths and 600 cases of the disease as of Monday. Dengue is a viral infection spread by mosquitoes that mostly causes flu-like illness. In severe cases, it can cause joint pain, swollen glands, bleeding and death. There is no specific treatment, but two vaccines have been recommended by the World Health Organization for countries that suffer regular outbreaks.

Mali's government has not officially released any figures on the disease to the public, nor has it announced whether it has requested aid from the WHO. With the country in political transition and facing the threat of fighters linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group, a new epidemic of dengue fever risks worsening the humanitarian situation especially among the large population of displaced people. "Dengue fever is also present in Burkina Faso and Senegal, and we need to raise public awareness," Traore said.

The virus typically emerges in more tropical environ-

ments but was first detected in comparatively arid Mali in 2008. Reports of the virus reemerged in 2017 and 2019. There is little long-term data on its prevalence.

In August, the government of Chad reported the country's first-ever outbreak of dengue, with dozens of confirmed cases in the nation that, like Mali, is located in the vast Sahel region south of the Sahara desert.

Elsewhere, the WHO has reported record cases of dengue this year in Bangladesh and the Americas, which have seen more than 300,000 cases and 4 million infections respectively. □



A Culex tarsalis mosquito is shown at the Salt Lake City Mosquito Abatement District on Aug. 28, 2023, in Salt Lake City. Associated Press



## This Chanukah, Aruba to Shine Brighter Than Ever December 7-14 celebrate the "Festival of Lights"

Chanukah is beginning this week and with it comes the annual Island-wide joyful Menorah lighting celebrations. At this time, more than ever, there is a need to stand proud and bring the special Chanukah light to the world.

Chabad of Aruba is organizing public Chanukah menorah lightings almost every night of Chanukah. The lightings are open for all and will bring the joy of this holiday to everyone with music, dreidels, latkes and donuts for all!

- Night 1: December 7th at 5:30pm candle lighting ceremony at the Ritz-Carlton Aruba beach front
- Night 4: December 10th at 5:30pm Car Menorah parade leaving from the California Lighthouse [www.JewishAruba.com/parade](http://www.JewishAruba.com/parade)
- Night 5: December 11th at 5:30pm candle lighting ceremony at The Playa Linda Beach Resort Pool Deck
- Night 6: December 12th at 5:30pm candle lighting ceremony at Eagle Beach opposite La Cabana Beach Resort
- Night 7: December 13th candle lighting ceremony at 5:30pm at the Marriott Ocean Club (in front of Malmok Restaurant)
- Night 8: December 14th at 7pm; Chanukah Concert with the Rogers Park Band at the Hyatt Regency Aruba Parking Lot

For more information about Chanukah visit [www.JewishAruba.com/Chanukah](http://www.JewishAruba.com/Chanukah)

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A special shout out to these sponsors who are making all the Chanukah events possible and free for the public: Caribbean Mercantile Bank (CMB), Do-It Center, Hyatt Regency Aruba Resort and Casino, AHATA, Diamonds International Aruba, 4D Photo Bar, Cigar Emporium, Superfood Plaza and MayDragonFly Marketing, Daher Residences.

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**STARRING: Rogers Park Band**

**THURSDAY December 14 7:00 PM**

**Hyatt Regency Aruba Parking Lot**

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<b>DECEMBER 11 5:30 PM</b>	Playa Linda Beach Resort Pool Deck	<b>DECEMBER 12 5:30 PM</b>	La Cabana Beachfront Eagle Beach
<b>DECEMBER 13 5:30 PM</b>	Marriott Ocean Club (in front of Malmok Restaurant)	<b>DECEMBER 14 7:00 PM</b>	Chanukah Concert Hyatt Regency Aruba Parking Lot

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### About Chanukah (Hanukkah)

Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, begins this year on the evening of Thursday, December 7 and concludes the evening of Friday, December 15. It recalls the victory of a militarily weak but spiritually strong Jewish people, who defeated the Syrian-Greeks who had overrun ancient Israel and sought to impose restrictions on the Jewish way of life and practice. They desecrated and defiled the Holy Temple and the oil prepared for the lighting of the menorah—part of the daily service. Upon defeating their enemies and recapturing the Temple only one jar of undefiled oil was found, enough to burn for one day, but it

lasted miraculously for eight. In commemoration, Jews celebrate Chanukah for eight days by lighting an eight-branched candelabrum known as a menorah, adding another candle each night. Today, the holiday carries a universal message of the triumph of freedom over oppression, of spirit over matter, of light over darkness. Additional information about the Chanukah holiday is available at [JewishAruba.com/Hanukkah](http://JewishAruba.com/Hanukkah).

Chabad Aruba offers Jewish education, outreach and social service programming for families and individuals of all ages, backgrounds and affiliations. For more information visit [www.JewishAruba.com](http://www.JewishAruba.com). □

## Ayo & Casibari: Aruba's famous rock formations

**(Oranjestad)—The Ayo and Casibari Rock Formations are known locally as one of the crucial sites to have in your "off-road" trip itinerary. These naturally formed rock formations as just one of the few places on the island that hold a rich history of our culture and of our ancestors.**

### Ayo

The Ayo Rock Formation is located in the northern part of the island, right on the road that leads you to the Black Stone Beach, and close to the Natural Bridge. The Ayo is a fenced terrain that consists of several giant boulders, resting neatly on top of or side by side each other, adding gorgeous natural architecture to

the surrounding "mondi"\*. This is also one of the few sites to contain prehistoric markings of our indigenous ancestors. The Ayo Rock formation contains stairs that lead you to the top of the highest boulder, offering a breath-taking view of the Aruban backyard. The Ayo is usually quiet, as it is situated farther away from the busier

parts of the island. However, this is just another charm of the site: the quiet area and the refreshing breeze offer a sense of comfort and peace.

### Casibari

Probably the busier rock formation site, the Casibari is situated more in the center of the island, much closer—and more accessible—to

the general public. Just like Ayo, Casibari is a fenced area containing several boulders that lay on top or lean on each other. The best aspect of the Casibari Rock Formation is the accompanying view when you climb up the top of the round, flat bolder. For this position, you can see the majority of the island and the

ocean in the south. Right in front of the entrance, there is the Casibari Café and Grill, a great place to get refreshments and snack before continuing your off-road adventure!

Both sites are open free to the public, 24 hours a day. However, unless you are taking a trip with a professional tour guide, there are no guides at the sites to help you climb the rock. So, do be careful when trudging on the boulders, and make sure to befriend any roaming goats you see along the way!

\*Mondi: what we call our Aruban wilderness. We don't have forests, or deserts, but we do have mondi! □



The Ayo Rock Formation





## Papillon: The butterfly effect of magnificent food



**PALM BEACH —** Do you remember the film “Papillon” starring Steve McQueen? Papillon restaurant is the island’s example where ‘life imitates art.’ The décor, especially the restrooms, was inspired by the movie. For more than a decade this restaurant has built a reputation with the fusion of classic French cuisine, Dutch and Caribbean flavors. Welcome in the world of wonders where ambiance, taste and service come together and you feel you are being welcomed in the home of the owner and her team.

“We find it really important that our guests have fun; can relax while listening to live music while their taste buds are being tickled by France, The Netherlands and the Caribbean. We offer a unique fusion of dishes and a night not to forget,” says owner Tina. As our special guest you can choose to dine inside our heartwarming airconditioned restaurant or we also offer outside dining on a cozy, elegant terrace with great ambiance of the surroundings. Perfect setting for an enjoyable time people watching while sipping on a delicious cocktail.

### Fresh oysters, caviar and wild boar

You are on vacation, life is to enjoy! If you want some-



thing special, a different flow than the usual, then Papillon is the place to go. Foodies are in heaven here with classic French dishes such as Foie Gras, Frog Legs, fresh Oysters coming in on a weekly basis from Holland, Escargots, Dover Sole à la Meunière flown in from Europe and filleted at the table, Duck Breast seared on the skin, roasted and braised Lamb in Balashi beer and slow braised Wild Boar Shank. Do not leave without trying the exclusive recommendation: Caviar! All of this combined with an extensive wine list from around the world makes Papillon a must-do on your Aruban vacation.

### Let the music play!

Another reason to visit us is our Live Entertainment Schedule all through the week.

Get all cozy and warmed up on Sundays and Mondays by Marisella and her enchanting acoustic tunes accompanied by percussion only.

On Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, Jairo will give you a real Saxophone treat while on Wednesday you can sit back, relax and enjoy your dinner while DJ Jason brings you the most smooth jazz and lounge music for a dreamy night.

The musicians interact with the guests & requests can be sent in.

The live tunes definitely add to the experience.

### Vegetarian vibes present

Impressive vegetarian/vegan dishes are



set up especially for the guests by the chef and Meredith from Vegan Aruba. “We offer vegan choices that are really good and tasty. Our daily soup is always vegan too”. What are you waiting for, make sure to pay a visit to this elegant yet laid-back restaurant while on Aruba. You are most welcome!

### Chef’s Garden 6 course dinner by Papillon

Our one of a kind executive chef Juan Ludena gets extra creative outside the kitchen of Papillon Restaurant. Serving a 6 course surprise menu featuring his International flavors and creativity with refined dishes, chef Juan Ludena is determined to give you a night to remember. Wine pairing is optional. The chef’s secret garden is located in a local replica of the Aruba traditional ‘cunucu’ house. The tropical garden is the setting for a magical in-home private dining experience.

For more information about this magnificent option, please send us an email or ask our wait staff.

Papillon Restaurant is located at The Village across the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino and within walking distance of all other major hotels.

Make your reservation today at:

info@papillonaruba.com

or call/WhatsApp + 00297 6995400

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## Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

### Emergency services

Even though most people don't even want to think about having to contact emergency services—especially not while on their vacation, it is still important to know what number to dial in case of the unlikely event of an accident or severe incident.

Police: 100  
Police Tipline: 11141  
Ambulance: 911  
Fire Dept: 115  
Oranjestad: HOH hospital:  
+297-527-4000  
San Nicolas: ImSan: +297-  
527-8833

### Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

### Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

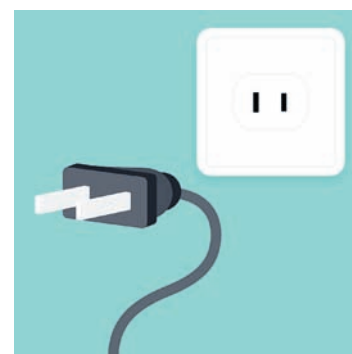
### Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the is-

land. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

### Taxis

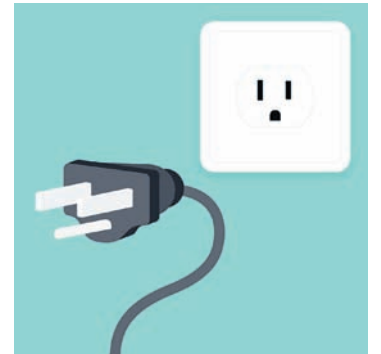
Prices for taxi fair are set by the Department of Public Traffic and are based on destination rather than mileage. Most taxis can take up to five passengers, but this may vary depending on the vehicle. Taxis are pretty much always avail-



able and you can ever hire one for \$45 an hour.

### Safety

Aruba is one of the safest islands in the Caribbean, and many tourist that visit



have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe. □

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# National Park Arikok: Aruba's biggest nature conservation



**The National Park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There are numerous animals to discover, for example the sea turtle who lays his eggs on the park's beaches.**

The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable journey of the islands past offering unique geological, cultural and historical sites. These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educational and informative programs and fun activities is available.

Did you know that four of the in total seven species

of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches? In the national park, a Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below on the beach: a majestic Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) heads back to sea after laying her eggs, while another nest laid 2 months ago by the same female hatches—a very rare occurrence of daytime nesting and hatching. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging.

## Nature Conservation

The protected area of National Park Arikok was officially established in 2000. Arikok National Park is a 34 square kilometers (7907 acres) of natural area, lo-

cated at the north-eastern part of Aruba which contains examples of most of the island's flora and fauna against a backdrop of great geological complexity. We are proud to state that approximately 18% of the total land area of Aruba is assigned as a National Park, to protect and preserve the flora, fauna, geology and historical remains present within Arikok National Park.

## The Landscape

There is a great geological variety within the park. The main aspects are the rough hills of the volcanic Aruba lava formation, the mysterious rocks of the batholithic quartz-diorite/tonalite, and the limestone rocks from fossilized coral. The two tallest hills on the island are situated within the park. Jamanota hill 188 meters



(617 ft) and Arikok hill 176 meters (577 ft), from which the name of the park is derived.

The line of the permanently wind-and-wave beaten North Coast is broken by several bays (boca's). Most of them are small yet impressive inlets at the mouth of dry riverbeds. Some of these bays (boca's) are spectacular sights, adorned with white, sandy beaches and sand dunes, as is the case at Boca Prins and Dos Playa.

Arikok is also home to Conchi, Aruba's most important natural attraction; also known as The Natural Pool. The journey to the Pool is and adventure by itself and only possible by foot, horse, ATV or 4x4 vehicle.

## Cultural and Historical components

There are a number of sites within the park that attest to the history of Aruba. The Caquetío Indians left rock paintings in Cunucu Arikok and Fontein Cave. The bird drawing in the park logo is a copy of one of these historical artistic expressions.

Old plantation (Cunucus) sites tell the story of an active yet challenging agricultural past.

These Cunucus were also residential areas for the few families that worked the land. These families found ways to survive in the difficult conditions, and were able to erect their homes with materials found in the area. Two of these

adobe houses have been restored. Park rangers are learning many of the old building techniques in order to preserve this unique Aruban mud-house. At Cunucu Arikok and near Plantation Prins you can find these adobe houses.

## Park Management

For the management of the park, a dedicated foundation "Fundacion Parke Nacional Arikok" (FPNA), known today as the Aruba National Park Foundation was established in July 2003. In February 2017, mangrove and wetland RAMSAR site #198 Spanish Lagoon was annexed to Arikok National Park due to its importance as a feeding and breeding area for water birds and as a nursery area for a variety of marine organisms. With this addition, the areas under FPNA management increased by 70 hectares while the amount of species of flora and fauna to be conserved to over 250. On December 21st, 2018 (AB 2018 no. 77) Parke Marino Aruba – currently consisting of four marine protected areas (MPAs) – was officially established and subsequently brought under management of FPNA. In 2019 management plans will be established for the new MPAs which include: coral reefs, sea grass beds, mangrove systems, a large diversity of breeding seabirds. Parke Marino Aruba also contains potential shark nursery areas, endangered sea turtle nesting beaches and marine mammal nursery areas. □





Did you know about...

## Basic driving rules on Aruba (part 2)

(Oranjestad)—In Yesterday's issue, we've provided some basic rules when driving on the four-lane highways and roundabouts on the island. Today, we want to offer you more tips and tricks when it comes to driving on the roads and highways of Aruba.

### Speed limit in certain areas

As mentioned in yesterday's issue, the legal minimum and maximum speed limit on the island is 50 and 80 km/h respectively. However, there are some areas where it is mandated to drive up to a certain speed. This is always indicated by a circular traffic sign with red border and the number 50 on it. Signs like these are always paired

by a similar sign with the number crossed out further down the road. This means that the mandate for this speed is now over; you may increase your velocity. Red borders on traffic sign—whether it's a circle or triangle—usually signal a warning, prohibition or preference.

Besides the "50" sign, you may also

encounter a traffic sign that says "bebouwde kom". These can be found in San Nicolas and Oranjestad. Bebouwde kom signs are rectangular and blue, and essentially tell you that you are in a heavily inhabited area. The maximum speed limit in a bebouwde kom is 50 km/h. Just like the previous pair, bebouwde kom signs are also paired with a similar sign crossed out.

### Priority signs

On the main roads of Aruba (not the highways), you may see a yellow, squared sign with a white border. This sign tells you that on this road, you have priority and all other traffic should yield to you. This sign can be seen in Savaneta for example. So, if you are driving on the main road in Savaneta going to San Nicolas, you are driving on a single long road, and other cars that want to get on this main road or cross it, either from an intersection or from a dirt road, must all wait until traffic on the main road is clear. In other words, you do not have to stop for them. This sign too has a counter part that indicates that your priority is over.

Another priority sign you may encounter is a triangle sign with a red border and something that looks like a cross. You'll see this sign in an intersection. The general rule of thumb for crossing an intersection that do not contain traffic lights, roundabouts, sign or arrows on the road, is to always yield for traffic on your right. However, if you encounter this sign on your side of the intersection, you have priority over the other cars, even the one on your right.

However, be careful not to confuse this sign with a similar up-side down triangle, also found on intersections. This sign is a prohibition sign, telling you that you have to stop and give other cars priority. Of course you also have a "stop" sign that mean the same thing. The stop sign is generally used for tricky intersections with minimal view of opposite incoming traffic.

These are some of the basic rules that you would have to know if you decide to drive on the island. These are of course other traffic signs, and we recommend you visit [aruba-travelguide.com](http://aruba-travelguide.com) for an extensive overview of all traffic signs used on Aruba. □



bebouwde kom



end bebouwde kom



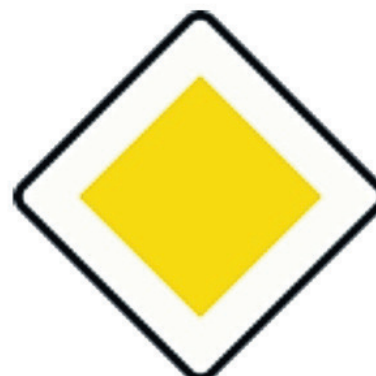
end priority



end speed limit



intersection priority



priority



speed limit



stop sign



triangle stop sign



## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS** 45 Tenant's fee

1 Message target

5 Hams' needs

11 Sound of agony

12 To-do list

13 Shed feathers

14 Struck out

15 "The Mikado," for one

17 Oxygen: Prefix

18 Chaser of Bugs

22 Patisserie array

24 Long attack

25 One — kind

26 Sinking signal

27 Corbin Bernsen series

30 Wild party

32 Vestige

33 Gun, as a motor

34 Neighbor-ing

38 Wee amount

41 Pine or palm

42 Depends

43 Balder's father

44 Finally

**DOWN**

1 Clip

2 Hen pen

3 National park in Hawaii

4 Menu choice

5 River floater

6 Some marbles

7 National park in Alaska

8 Tavern

9 Pindar poem

10 Blue

16 Hosp. parts

M	A	T	H		E	S	C	R	O	W
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					M	A	L	I	C	E
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								A	N	T

Yesterday's answer

19 National park in Colorado

20 Big heads

21 Take a breather

22 Future stallion

23 Miles off

28 National park in Maine

29 Cheese buys

30 Lingerie item

31 Church reader

35 Witty remark

36 German denial

37 Circus sight

38 Mrs., in Madrid

39 Ran into

40 Suffering

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10
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13					14					
15					16					
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22	23						24			
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			34		35				36	37
38	39	40						41		
42								43		
44								45		

12-7

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

12-7

CRYPTOQUOTE

W NSZZNC AXMC GEB, W

NSZZNC AXMC NXTC, W

NSZZNC AXMC NSPUZ CTCMI

BSPUZ. ZUWZ'L ZUC YXI XG

UWBERRWU. — EBRBXFB

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: GRATITUDE MAKES SENSE OF OUR PAST, BRINGS PEACE FOR TODAY, AND CREATES A VISION FOR TOMORROW. — MELODY BEATTIE

## Google launches Gemini, upping the stakes in the global AI race



Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai speaks about Google DeepMind at a Google I/O event in Mountain View, Calif., May 10, 2023. Associated Press

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE and MATT O'BRIEN  
AP Technology Writers

Google took its next leap in artificial intelligence Wednesday with the launch of project Gemini, an AI model trained to behave in human-like ways that's likely to intensify the debate about the technology's potential promise and perils.

The rollout will unfold in phases, with less sophisticated versions of Gemini called "Nano" and "Pro" being immediately incorporated into Google's AI-powered chatbot Bard and its Pixel 8 Pro smartphone.

With Gemini providing a helping hand, Google promises Bard will become more intuitive and better at tasks that involve planning. On the Pixel 8 Pro, Gemini will be able to quickly summarize recordings made on the device and provide automatic replies on messaging services, starting with WhatsApp, according to Google.

Gemini's biggest advances won't come until

early next year when its Ultra model will be used to launch "Bard Advanced," a juiced-up version of the chatbot that initially will only be offered to a test audience.

The AI, at first, will only work in English throughout the world, although Google executives assured reporters during a briefing that the technology will have no problem eventually diversifying into other languages.

Based on a demonstration of Gemini for a group of reporters, Google's "Bard Advanced" might be capable of unprecedented AI multitasking by simultaneously recognizing and understanding presentations involving text, photos and video.

Gemini will also eventually be infused into Google's dominant search engine, although the timing of that transition hasn't been spelled out yet.

"This is a significant milestone in the development of AI, and the start of a new era for us at Google," declared Demis Hassabis,

CEO of Google DeepMind, the AI division behind Gemini. Google prevailed over other bidders, including Facebook parent Meta, to acquire London-based DeepMind nearly a decade ago, and since melded it with its "Brain" division to focus on Gemini's development.

The technology's problem-solving skills are being touted by Google as being especially adept in math and physics, fueling hopes among AI optimists that it may lead to scientific breakthroughs that improve life for humans.

But an opposing side of the AI debate worries about the technology eventually eclipsing human intelligence, resulting in the loss of millions of jobs and perhaps even more destructive behavior, such as amplifying misinformation or triggering the deployment of nuclear weapons.

"We're approaching this work boldly and responsibly," Google CEO Sundar Pichai wrote in a blog post. "That means being ambitious in our research and pursuing the capabilities that will bring enormous benefits to people and society, while building in safeguards and working collaboratively with governments and experts to address risks as AI becomes more capable."

Gemini's arrival is likely to up the ante in an AI competition that has been escalating for the past year, with San Francisco startup OpenAI and long-time industry rival Microsoft.

Backed by Microsoft's financial muscle and computing power, OpenAI was already deep into developing its most advanced AI model, GPT-4, when it released the free ChatGPT tool late last year.

That AI-fueled chatbot rocketed to global fame, bringing buzz to the commercial promise of generative AI and pressuring Google to push out Bard in response. □

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# November is the sixth straight month to set a heat record, scientists say

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**  
AP Science Writer  
**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)** — For the sixth month in a row, Earth set a new monthly record for heat, and also added the hottest autumn to the litany of record-breaking heat this year, the European climate agency calculated. And with only one month left, 2023 is on the way to smashing the record for hottest year. November was nearly a third of a degree Celsius (0.57 degrees Fahrenheit) hotter than the previous hottest November, the European Space Agency's Copernicus Climate Change Service announced early Wednesday. November was 1.75 degrees Celsius (3.15 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than pre-industrial times, tying October and behind September, for the hottest above average for any month, the scientists said. "The last half year has truly



Clouds surround downtown Phoenix at sunset, Sunday, July 30, 2023.

Associated Press

been shocking," said Copernicus Deputy Director Samantha Burgess. "Scientists are running out of adjectives to describe this." November averaged 14.22 degrees Celsius (57.6 degrees Fahrenheit), which is 0.85 degrees Celsius (1.5 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than the average the last 30 years. Two days during the month were 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees

Fahrenheit) warmer than pre-industrial times, something that hadn't happened before, according to Burgess. So far this year is 1.46 degrees Celsius (2.6 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than pre-industrial times, about a seventh of a degree warmer than the previous

warmest year of 2016, Copernicus scientists calculated. That's very close to the international threshold the world set for climate change. The 2015 Paris climate agreement set a goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial times over the long term and failing that at least 2 degrees (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit). □

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# Norman Lear, producer of TV's 'All in the Family' and influential liberal advocate, has died at 101

By LYNN ELBER  
AP Television Writer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Norman Lear, the writer, director and producer who revolutionized prime time television with "All in the Family," "The Jeffersons" and "Maude," propelling political and social turmoil into the once-insulated world of TV sitcoms, has died. He was 101.

Lear died Tuesday night in his sleep, surrounded by family at his home in Los Angeles, said Lara Bergthold, a spokesperson for his family.

A liberal activist with an eye for mainstream entertainment, Lear fashioned bold and controversial comedies that were embraced by viewers who had to watch the evening news to find out what was going on in the world. His shows helped define prime time comedy in the 1970s, launched the careers of Rob Reiner and Valerie Bertinelli and made middle-aged superstars of Carroll O'Connor, Bea Arthur and Redd Foxx.

Lear "took television away from dopey wives and dumb fathers, from the pimps, hookers, hustlers, private eyes, junkies, cowboys and rustlers that constituted television chaos, and in their place he put the American people," the late Paddy Chayefsky, a leading writer of television's early "golden age," once said.

Tributes poured in after his death: "I loved Norman Lear with all my heart. He was my second father. Sending my love to Lyn and the whole Lear family," Reiner wrote on X, formerly Twitter. "More than anyone before him, Norman used situation comedy to shine a light on prejudice, intolerance, and inequality. He created families that mirrored ours," Jimmy Kimmel said. "All in the Family" was immersed in the headlines of the day, while also drawing upon Lear's childhood memories of his tempestuous father. Rac-



**Norman Lear, executive producer of the Pop TV series "One Day at a Time," poses for a portrait during the Winter Television Critics Association Press Tour on Jan. 13, 2020, in Pasadena, Calif.**

**Associated Press**

ism, feminism, and the Vietnam War were flashpoints as blue collar conservative Archie Bunker, played by O'Connor, clashed with liberal son-in-law Mike Stivic (Reiner). Jean Stapleton co-starred as Archie's befuddled but good-hearted wife, Edith, and Sally Struthers played the Bunkers' daughter, Gloria, who defended her husband in arguments with Archie.

Lear's work transformed television at a time when old-fashioned programs such as "Here's Lucy," "Ironside" and "Gunsmoke" still dominated. CBS, Lear's primary network, would soon enact its "rural purge" and cancel such standbys as "The Beverly Hillbillies" and "Green Acres." The groundbreaking sitcom "The Mary Tyler Moore Show," about a single career woman in Minneapolis, debuted on CBS in September 1970, just months before "All in the Family" started.

But ABC passed on "All in the Family" twice and CBS ran a disclaimer when it finally aired the show: "The program you are about to see is 'All in the Family.' It seeks to throw a humorous spotlight on our frailties, prejudices, and concerns.

By making them a source of laughter we hope to show, in a mature fashion, just how absurd they are."

By the end of 1971, "All In the Family" was No. 1 in the ratings and Archie Bunker was a pop culture fixture, with President Richard Nixon among his fans. Some of his putdowns became catchphrases. He called his son-in-law "Meathead" and his wife "Dingbat," and would snap at anyone who dared occupy his faded orange-yellow wing chair. It was the centerpiece of the Bunkers' rowhouse in Queens, and eventually went on display in the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. Even the show's opening segment was innovative: Instead of an off-screen theme song, Archie and Edith are seated at the piano in their living room, belting out a nostalgic number, "Those Were the Days," with Edith screeching off-key and Archie crooning such lines as "Didn't need no welfare state" and "Girls were girls and men were men." "All in the Family," based on the British sitcom, "Til Death Us Do Part," was the No. 1-rated series for an unprecedented five years

in a row and earned four Emmy Awards as best comedy series, finally eclipsed by five-time winner "Frasier" in 1998.

Hits continued for Lear and then-partner Bud Yorkin, including "Maude" and "The Jeffersons," both spinoffs from "All in the Family," with the same winning combination of one-liners and social conflict. In a 1972 two-part episode of "Maude," the title character (played by Arthur) became the first on television to have an abortion, drawing a surge of protests along with high ratings. And when a close friend of Archie's turned out to be gay, Nixon privately fumed to White House aides that the show "glorified" same-sex relationships.

"Controversy suggests people are thinking about something. But there'd better be laughing first and foremost or it's a dog," Lear said in a 1994 interview with The Associated Press.

Lear and Yorkin also created "Good Times," about a working class Black family in Chicago; "Sanford & Son," a showcase for Foxx as junkyard dealer Fred Sanford; and "One Day at a Time," starring Bonnie

Franklin as a single mother and Bertinelli and Mackenzie Phillips as her daughters. In the 1974-75 season, Lear and Yorkin produced five of the top 10 shows.

Lear's business success enabled him to express his ardent political beliefs beyond the small screen. In 2000, he and a partner bought a copy of the Declaration of Independence for \$8.14 million and sent it on a cross-country tour.

He was an active donor to Democratic candidates and founded the nonprofit liberal advocacy group People for the American Way in 1980, he said, because people such as evangelists Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson were "abusing religion."

"I started to say, 'This is not my America. You don't mix politics and religion this way,'" Lear said in a 1992 interview with Commonweal magazine.

The nonprofit's president, Svante Myrick, said "we are heartbroken" by Lear's death. "We extend our deepest sympathies to Norman's wife Lyn and their entire family, and to the many people who, like us, loved Norman."

With his wry smile and impish boat hat, the youthful Lear created television well into his 90s, rebooting "One Day at a Time" for Netflix in 2017 and exploring income inequality for the documentary series "America Divided" in 2016. Documentarians featured him in 2016's "Norman Lear: Just Another Version of You," and 2017's "If You're Not in the Obit, Eat Breakfast," a look at active nonagenarians such as Lear and Rob Reiner's father, Carl Reiner. In 1984, he was lauded as the "innovative writer who brought realism to television" when he became one of the first seven people inducted into the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences' Hall of Fame. He later received a National Medal of Arts and was honored at the Kennedy Center. □



# Golf officials to roll back ball for pros and weekend hackers alike

By **DOUG FERGUSON**  
AP Golf Writer

Golf's ruling bodies are changing the equipment testing to make sure the golf ball goes shorter for everyone from Tiger Woods to the amateur who plays public courses on the weekend.

The USGA and R&A announced its decision Wednesday, capping more than five years of intensive study on distance that led them to believe consistent gains off the tee some 30 yards by PGA Tour players over the last 25 years was detrimental to the game.

"There's virtually no denying that the game at the highest end is longer by a long shot today than it was 20 years ago," said Mike Whan, the CEO of the USGA.

The change is not effective until 2028 for tour and elite golf, 2030 for recreational golfers.

The original proposal in March was a "Model Local Rule" that would lead to a shorter golf ball only at the elite level, which would create two sets of rules for the first time.

The PGA Tour and PGA of America strongly opposed it.

Instead, the USGA and R&A are changing the test that measures how far the ball goes, leaving in tact the "Overall Distance Stan-



**Tiger Woods tees off on the third hole during the second round of the Hero World Challenge PGA Tour at the Albany Golf Club, in New Providence, Bahamas, Friday, Dec. 1, 2023.**

Associated Press

dard" limit of 317 yards with a 3-yard tolerance.

The new test will be a club swung at 125 mph, equivalent to ball speed of 183 mph (up from 120 mph club speed and 176 mph ball speed); with a spin rate of 2,200 rpm (down from 2,520 rpm) and a launch angle of 11 degrees (previously 10 degrees).

For the longest hitters, they expect the ball to go up to 15 yards shorter 11 yards shorter for average tour pros, 7 yards for female tour players and 5 yards or less for everyone else.

Keegan Bradley isn't sure

about that. He said Srixon made him a golf ball that would have met proposed standards and it was flying 40 to 50 yards shorter.

"I think that the USGA ... everything that they do is reactionary," Bradley said last week in the Bahamas. "They don't think of a solution. They just think we're going to affect 100% of the population that plays golf. For the amateur world to hit the ball shorter is monstrous. I can't think of anything more stupid than that."

The PGA Tour had said it would not adopt the proposed "Model Local Rule."

It was not entirely pleased with a new equipment rule. "Throughout the process, we have provided feedback to the USGA and The R&A and are pleased to see a number of our recommendations reflected in this most recent announcement," the tour said in a statement. "However, we believe the proposed increase in test clubhead speed to 125 mph is disproportionate to the rate of increase we see when analyzing PGA Tour radar data."

The PGA Tour had 98 players who averaged 300

yards in driving distance, led by Rory McIlroy at 326.3 yards.

McIlroy took to social media last week when Golf Digest first reported the new test.

"It will make no difference whatsoever to the average golfer and puts golf back on a path of sustainability," McIlroy said. "It will also help bring back certain skills in the pro game that have been eradicated over the past 2 decades."

Woods said last week in the Bahamas he has long been in favor of bifurcation two sets of rules similar to aluminum bats and wooden bats in baseball. That example, however, would suggest changing the drivers.

Drivers were on the table for the USGA and R&A a year ago until they zoomed in on the ball.

Their only action on drivers was to expand the test of how long the ball stays on the face of the club, known as characteristic time. There is concern that with extended use of the club, the face gets thinner and allows for more of a trampoline effect.

The big development was the golf ball how far distance has come in 40-plus years, fear by the governing bodies how much farther it will go as players get stronger and move faster with better technique. □



**Dallas Cowboys head coach Mike McCarthy, celebrates after running back Tony Pollard ran the ball for a touchdown in the second half of an NFL football game against the Seattle Seahawks in Arlington, Texas, Thursday, Nov. 30, 2023.**

Associated Press

## Cowboys coach Mike McCarthy out with appendicitis

By **SCHUYLER DIXON**  
AP Pro Football Writer

**FRISCO, Texas (AP)** — Dallas Cowboys coach Mike McCarthy is away from the team to undergo surgery for appendicitis but expects to be on the sideline Sunday night for a highly anticipated rematch with Philadelphia.

The team said McCarthy was hospitalized after experiencing abdominal pain Wednesday morning. He was expected to have surgery in the afternoon and be released later in the day.

Defensive coordinator Dan Quinn, a former head coach in Atlanta, addressed reporters during McCarthy's regularly scheduled news conference Wednesday. Offensive coordinator Brian Schottenheimer was expected to handle those duties Thursday.

McCarthy, who turned 60 last month, is in his fourth season as coach of the Cowboys but first as the play-caller. Quinn didn't want to address a contingency plan for play-calling since he was expecting McCarthy to be available for the game.

The Cowboys (9-3) trail the defending NFC champion Eagles (10-2) by a game in the NFC East. Dallas takes a 14-game home winning streak into the rematch and needs a victory to maintain realistic hopes of taking the division crown from Philadelphia. The Eagles won the first meeting 28-23 in Philadelphia. □



## Belmont Stakes will be held at Saratoga Race Course in 2024

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**  
AP Sports Writer

The Belmont is heading to Saratoga for the first time but almost certainly not the last.

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul announced Wednesday that the 2024 Belmont Stakes will be run at Saratoga Race Course, with the third leg of horse racing's Triple Crown shifting upstate from Long Island because of the massive renovation of Belmont Park. The move has been expected for some time since the New York Racing Association unveiled plans for the \$455 million Belmont Park project. Construction is expected to last into 2025, so there's a good chance of the Belmont at Saratoga two years in a row.

"This is likely a two-year en-



Horses break from the gate at the start of the Travers Stakes horse race at Saratoga Race Course in Saratoga Springs, Aug. 27, 2016.

Associated Press

deavor," NYRA president and CEO David O'Rourke said by phone Wednesday. "We're going to get it right, and we're going to improve on it each year."

Pending the approval of the North American Graded Stakes Committee, the Belmont will be run at a distance of 1 1/4 miles, shorter than the race's traditional 1 1/2 miles because of the shape of the dirt track at Saratoga. It was 1 1/8 miles in 2020 when the Belmont led off the Triple Crown run out of order because of the pandemic.

That Belmont had no fans. A crowd of up to 50,000 is expected this time to witness history. "The ability to have the Belmont up at Saratoga, a bunch of circumstances would have to come into alignment," O'Rourke said. "It's the most historic venue in the country. It's one of the coolest sporting venues on the planet, and it's one of the greatest tourist towns in the nation. Everyone's excited." The purse will increase from \$1.5 million to \$2 million and the race will be part of a special four-day run at Saratoga a month before the usual summer meet there begins July 11.

"It's a win for horse racing and for the Capital Region to have the excitement and the ability to host the four-day festival in June at America's most historic track," Hochul said in a statement. Racing in New York is currently happening at Aqueduct in Queens, which was home to the Triple Crown finale from 1963-67, the last time Belmont Park was renovated.

The race is expected to return to Belmont Park in 2026. O'Rourke said expanding the annual Saratoga meet beyond 40 days is "not in any of our current thinking."

"Something like this is just kind of a unique thing to know that it's going to happen for a couple years up there," he said. "We're really just trying to program our racing calendar through the development. Bringing the Belmont up there was kind of an obvious move in some ways, in terms of potential for the actual event." □



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